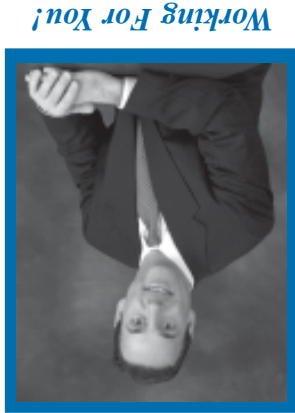


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Working For You!

Representative Jeffrey J. Berger

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At the Capitol:
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Hartford, CT 06106-1591
860 240-8585 or toll-free 1-800-842-8267

Please Keep in Touch

An Act Concerning Murder with Special Circumstances



This session, the General Assembly participated in a thoughtful and somber debate on the subject of capital punishment. I spoke out against the proposal to abolish the death penalty, both when it came before the Judiciary Committee and when it was debated on the floor of the House of Representatives. The legislation, which would have eliminated the death penalty as a sentencing option and made the penalty for this new crime life imprisonment without the possibility of release, was defeated on the floor of the House. I am proud the General Assembly was able to engage itself in a dignified debate on this highly controversial issue. (House Bill 6012)

Rep. Berger is a member of the following legislative committees:

- o Commerce (Co-Chair)
- o Finance, Revenue and Bonding
- o Judiciary



Rep. Berger and his wife, Noreen, with Bunker Hill neighbors.

CAPITOL

news

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY J. BERGER

73RD DISTRICT

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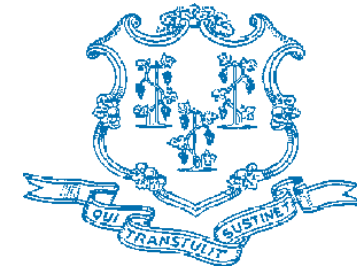
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Dear Friends:

This has been a challenging and productive year. I have worked hard to see that Waterbury has received its fair share. As co-chair of the Commerce Committee, I have done my best to work with state agencies, industry and the City of Waterbury on behalf of pro-business legislation and jobs. I have been active also with the Judiciary Committee and the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, initiating and moving forward many economic development issues for the 73rd district. In addition, I continue to advocate for motor vehicle tax reforms.

As always, I thank you for placing your trust in me and for allowing me the privilege of serving you at the Capitol. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Berger

State Representative, 73rd District



Serving Waterbury's 73rd District

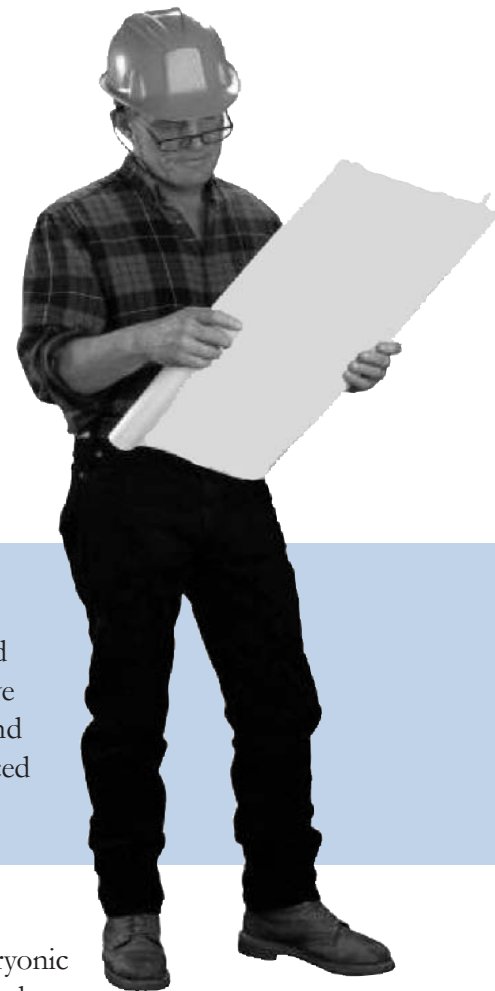


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recommendations of the Connecticut Technology Transfer and Commercialization Advisory Board

To compete effectively in the global marketplace, Connecticut companies need better access and easy implementation of new technologies and innovations needed to keep up with changing demands. Responding to the needs of Connecticut's small and medium sized manufacturers, the General Assembly passed House Bill 5910 to facilitate strategic coordination and increased synergy to put new, innovative technologies into the marketplace more expediently.

Working in collaboration with other state agencies, UCONN, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC), Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CII), and the Connecticut Development Authority (CDA) must develop a plan and budget to foster technology transfer, the mechanism that scientists, researchers, and business use to apply research to industry. The plan must include how to endow university chairs in targeted areas, attract leading academics, aggressively pursue federal grants, spur private investment, utilize corporate sponsored research, establish an innovation center tied to a university, promote links between entrepreneurs, innovators, venture capitalists and investors. The recommendations must be submitted by January 1, 2006, to the Labor, Commerce and Education Committees. \$40 million in existing resources may be used to implement the plan. (Public Act 05-165)



Assistance for Defense Manufacturers' Suppliers

Facing a highly competitive, ever-changing marketplace, small- and medium-sized manufacturers that support Connecticut's large defense contractors now will have access to \$1 million in advanced training in new technologies, new facilities and equipment through the new collaborative center at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT). (Public Act 05-143)

Stem Cell Research

Connecticut has become just the third state to endorse and fund human adult and embryonic stem cell research. The landmark bill provides a 'safe haven' for stem cell researchers, establishes a regulatory framework for conducting the research, and bans human cloning. Included in the legislation is a 10-year, \$100 million funding commitment designed to keep Connecticut's best and brightest scientific minds in state, and to attract new ones from around the nation and world. Proponents believe that embryonic stem cell research holds great promise for finding cures for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes and other diseases - as embryonic stem cells have the unique potential to repair all types of damaged tissue in the body. (Public Act 05-149)

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2005-2006 STATE MONEY FOR WATERBURY!

State funds allocated to Waterbury amount to **\$121,522,540** - up from last year's **\$116,925,494**, an increase of **\$4,597,046** - **nearly four percent!** I am also pleased to announce that state bond funding has been earmarked for the following Waterbury projects:

- **\$1.5 million** for renovations to Municipal Stadium Complex for lighting, grandstand seating and building improvements at Waterbury Municipal Stadium
- **\$1 million** for Silas Bronson Library for improvements
- **\$125,000** for Long Hill Berkeley Playground
- **\$250,000** for Waterville Recreation Center
- **\$250,000** for Lakewood Park



Property Tax Credit

The Property Tax credit for qualified taxpayers will remain at \$350 for the current year but will increase to \$400 for the 2006 tax year. (Public Act 05-251)

Progress on Motor Vehicle Tax Reform

This year I worked on a bill for a study of property taxes on motor vehicles. The study would determine the feasibility of eliminating motor vehicle property taxes or equalizing them statewide, and the potential costs and benefits. I am pleased this bill was passed favorably out of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. (House Bill 6962)

Veterans' Service Ribbons

To recognize Connecticut residents who have been called to serve in time of war, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs must award

the veterans a ribbon and medal for his or her service. Funds in the amount of \$500,000 are included within the budget of the Military Department for this purpose. The Adjutant General and the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs are responsible for creating and distributing the ribbons and medals. (Public Act 05-3)

